

# EXHIBIT “C”

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

**NICOLE NEILL and ROBERT NEILL,** :  
**both INDIVIDUALLY and as** :  
**as CO-ADMINISTRATORS OF THE** :  
**ESTATE OF ROBERT NEILL,** :  
**DECEASED** :  
10 S 17th St :  
Harrisburg, PA 17104-1377 :

5:12-CV-0332

**Plaintiffs** :

**v.** :

**MT. JOY BOROUGH** :

21 East Main Street :

Mount Joy, PA 17552 :

**and** :

**TYSON WOODS** :

21 East Main Street :

Mount Joy, PA 17552 :

**and** :

**KYLE HOSKING** :

21 East Main Street :

Mount Joy, PA 17552 :

**and** :

**SUSQUEHANNA REGIONAL** :

**POLICE DEPARTMENT** :

188 Rock Point Road :

Marietta, PA 17547 :

**and** :

**DAVID CLANCY, III** :

188 Rock Point Road :

Marietta, PA 17547 :

**and** :

**JEFFREY MENET** :

21 Springhouse Road :

Ephrata, PA 17522 :

**and** :

**TASER INTERNATIONAL, INC.** :

17800 N. 85th St. :

Scottsdale, AZ 85255-6311 USA :

**Defendants** :

**SECOND AMENDED COMPLAINT**

Plaintiffs Nicole Neill and Robert Neill, both Individually and as Co-Administrators of the Estate of Robert A. Neill, Deceased, by and through their attorneys, file the within Second Amended Complaint against the above-captioned defendants, and in support thereof, state as follows:

**JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

1. This Court has jurisdiction over this action against the Defendants pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §1983 as well as 28 U.S.C. §1331. This Court has jurisdiction over the pendant state law tort claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1367(a).

2. Venue is properly vested in this Court because Plaintiff-decedent and the Defendants are residents of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, the acts complained of occurred within the jurisdiction of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania (specifically, Lancaster County), and the defendant product-manufacturer (Taser International, Inc.) conducts regular and significant business within the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

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**PARTIES**

3. Plaintiffs, Nicole Neill and Robert E. Neill (hereinafter collectively referred to as “Plaintiffs”) as the duly-appointed Co-Administrators of the Estate of Robert A. Neill (hereinafter referred to as “Plaintiff-decedent”) are adult citizens and residents of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and are the surviving children of Plaintiff-decedent.

4. At all times relevant hereto, Plaintiff-decedent resided at 3 E. Haverestview South, in Mt. Joy, PA.

5. At all times relevant hereto, Plaintiff-decedent, a Vietnam War veteran, suffered from

mental and emotional illnesses and disabilities, including seizure disorder, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and post traumatic stress disorder ("PTSD"). Upon information and belief, Plaintiff-decedent's mental and emotional health was known to all or some of the police departments and police officers identified, or in the process of being identified as defendants to this litigation, prior to November 6, 2010.

6. On December 17, 2010, Letters of Administration were issued by the Register of Wills of Lancaster County for Plaintiffs to act as co-administrators for the Estate of Plaintiff-decedent, who also predeceased his adult daughter, Eva Neill.

7. Defendant Mt. Joy Borough is a borough in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, duly organized as such under the laws of the Commonwealth, and has designated offices located at 21 East Main Street, Mt. Joy, PA 17552. At all relevant times hereto, Defendant Mount Joy Borough acted by and through its agents, servants and/or employees. It is responsible for the policies, procedures, practices and customs created, promulgated, implemented, enforced and utilized at and by the Mt. Joy Police Department, including such policies, procedures, practices and customs that relate to force continuums, electronic control weapons (including tasers), use of O.C./chemical spray, physical restraint of suspects, conflict resolution, and first aid, and does so through its various agencies, agents, departments, representatives, officials, and/or employees including but not limited to Defendants Tyson Woods and Kyle Hosking.

8. Attached to this Second Amended Complaint as Exhibit "A" is, upon information and belief, Mt. Joy Borough's "Use of Force Policy" which provides no limitations on the duration that ECWs can be deployed against a suspect, and specifically and expressly permits the deployment of ECWs for levels beneath the "less lethal" designation on the force

continuum/force progression. Specifically, on Mt. Joy's eight-step force progression policy, "less lethal force" is designated at Step VII, whereas ECW deployment is authorized as early as Step III.

9. Defendant Tyson Woods (hereinafter "Officer Woods") is an individual who was, at all relevant times hereto, a Police Officer of the Mount Joy Police Department, operating in the course and scope of his employment, and under the color and guise of the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the laws of Mount Joy Borough. Officer Woods is being sued in both his official and individual capacity.

10. Defendant Kyle Hosking (hereinafter "Officer Hosking") is an individual who was, at all relevant times hereto, a Police Officer of the Mount Joy Police Department, operating in the course and scope of his employment, and under the color and guise of the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the laws of Mount Joy Borough. Officer Hosking is being sued in both his official and individual capacity.

11. Defendant Susquehanna Regional Police Department is a police department in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, duly organized as such under the laws of the Commonwealth, and has offices located at 188 Rock Point Road, Marietta, PA 17547. At all relevant times hereto, Defendant Susquehanna Regional Police Department acted by and through its agents, servants and/or employees. It is responsible for the policies, procedures, practices and customs created, promulgated, implemented, enforced and utilized at and by the Susquehanna Regional Police Department, including such policies, procedures, practices and customs that relate to force continuums, physical restraint of suspects, conflict resolution, and first aid, and does so through its various agencies, agents, departments, representatives, officials, and/or employees including but not limited to

Defendant David Clancy, III.

12. Defendant David Clancy, III (hereinafter “Officer Clancy”) is an individual who was, at all relevant times hereto, a Police Officer of the Susquehanna Regional Police Department, operating in the course and scope of his employment, and under the color and guise of the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Officer Clancy is being sued exclusively in his individual capacity.

13. Defendant Jeffrey Menet (hereinafter “Trooper Menet”) is an individual who was, at all relevant times hereto, a Police Officer of the Pennsylvania State Police. For purposes of this Complaint, Officer Menet is being sued exclusively in his individual capacity.

14. Defendant Taser International, Inc. (hereinafter “Defendant Taser”) is a corporation that designs, manufactured, distributes, and sells electronic control weapons (“ECWs”), including the tasers at issue in this case. Upon information and belief, Defendant Taser provides training and training materials for ECWs, including the tasers at issue in this case.

#### **FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

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15. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all of the above paragraphs as if set forth fully herein.

16. Upon information and belief, on or about November 6, 2010, at approximately 4:00 a.m., Plaintiff-decedent placed a 911 phone call to request assistance at his residence.

17. Upon information and belief, in response to Plaintiff-decedent’s 911 phone call, or as a result of subsequent dispatches, Officer Woods arrived at Plaintiff-decedent’s residence.

18. Upon information and belief, in response to Plaintiff-decedent’s 911 phone call, or as a result of subsequent dispatches, Officer Hosking arrived at Plaintiff-decedent’s residence.

19. Upon information and belief, in response to Plaintiff-decedent's 911 phone call, or as a result of subsequent dispatches, Officer Clancy arrived at Plaintiff-decedent's residence.

20. Upon information and belief, in response to Plaintiff-decedent's 911 phone call, or as a result of subsequent dispatches, Officer Menet arrived at Plaintiff-decedent's residence..

21. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff-decedent, at all material times during the incident more particularly described herein, did not act and/or did not continue to act in a manner that presented a significant threat of serious injury or harm to the police officers present.

22. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff-decedent was already demonstrating shortness of breath when all or some of the police officers first arrived on scene.

23. Upon information and belief, none of the police officers on scene requested, called, or otherwise considered a Crisis Intervention Team ("CIT") or any similar unit or backup personnel which possessed adequate training for interventions with a person suffering from a mental or emotional disability, or potentially suffering from a mental or emotional disability.

24. Upon information and belief, all or some of the police officers on scene should have known that Plaintiff-decedent was afflicted with mental and/or emotional disabilities, pursuant to prior interactions between local law enforcement, including Mt. Joy Police Chief John O'Connell, and Plaintiff-decedent.

25. All of the police officers on scene were under an obligation and duty to abide by applicable and/or reasonable force continuums, including the use of ECWs (including tasers), O.C./chemical spray, and physical restraint, so as to avoid excessive force and serious and fatal injuries to all individuals seized or in the process of being seized, including Plaintiff-decedent.

26. Upon information and belief, Officer Woods discharged an ECW fifteen (15)

separate times, ranging in duration from two (2) seconds to twenty eight (28) seconds, within an approximately ten minute period, for an aggregate total of one hundred and nineteen (119) seconds, striking Plaintiff-decedent, and thereby subjecting him to an excessive and unreasonably dangerous electrical current and the significant circulatory and respiratory health problems associated therewith.

27. Upon information and belief, Officer Hosking discharged an ECW twice within an approximately sixteen second period, for an aggregate total of nine (9) seconds, striking Plaintiff-decedent, and thereby subjecting him to an excessive and unreasonably dangerous electrical current and the significant circulatory and respiratory health problems associated therewith.

28. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff-decedent was handcuffed during a portion of the approximately one hundred and twenty eight (128) seconds of aggregate ECW deployment.

29. Upon information and belief, Officer Woods utilized significant, excessive, and unreasonably dangerous physical restraint techniques upon Plaintiff-decedent, including after Plaintiff-decedent was handcuffed, thereby enhancing and/or causing Plaintiff-decedent's respiratory and circulatory strain and distress, which included pressing on Plaintiff-decedent's prone body, kicking Plaintiff-decedent, and tying/binding Plaintiff-decedent with rope.

30. Upon information and belief, Officer Hosking utilized significant, excessive, and unreasonably dangerous physical restraint techniques upon Plaintiff-decedent, including after Plaintiff-decedent was handcuffed, thereby enhancing and/or causing Plaintiff-decedent's respiratory and circulatory strain and distress, which included pressing on Plaintiff-decedent's prone body.

31. Upon information and belief, while Plaintiff-decedent was handcuffed and being repeatedly subjected to ECW deployments, Officer Clancy utilized significant, excessive, and



unreasonably dangerous physical restraint techniques upon Plaintiff-decedent thereby enhancing and/or causing Plaintiff-decedent's respiratory and circulatory strain and distress, which included pressing on Plaintiff-decedent's prone body, kicking Plaintiff-decedent, punching Plaintiff-decedent's legs with his fists, and tying/binding Plaintiff-decedent with rope.

32. Upon information and belief, while Plaintiff-decedent was handcuffed and being repeatedly subjected to ECW deployments and physical restraint, Trooper Menet repeatedly and excessively deployed OC/chemical spray directly into Plaintiff-decedent's face from a distance of approximately five (5) feet, causing Plaintiff-decedent to suffer enhanced and unreasonably dangerous respiratory strain and distress. Upon information and belief, Trooper Menet was, on at least one occasion, directed by Officer Woods to deploy O.C./chemical spray.

33. Upon information and belief, while Plaintiff-decedent was handcuffed and being repeatedly subjected to ECW deployments, Trooper Menet utilized significant, excessive, and unreasonably dangerous physical restraint techniques upon Plaintiff-decedent thereby enhancing and/or causing Plaintiff-decedent's respiratory and circulatory strain and distress, which included pressing on Plaintiff-decedent's prone body, including Plaintiff-decedent's neck, and tying/binding Plaintiff-decedent with rope.

34. Upon information and belief, Officer Woods did not provide adequate or timely first aid to Plaintiff-decedent, following the application of ECWs, O.C./chemical spray, and/or significant physical restraint techniques, thereby significantly and unreasonably reducing the likelihood of survival.

35. Upon information and belief, Officer Hosking did not provide adequate or timely first aid to Plaintiff-decedent, following the application of ECWs, O.C./chemical spray, and/or significant

physical restraint techniques, thereby significantly and unreasonably reducing the likelihood of survival.

36. Upon information and belief, Officer Clancy did not provide adequate or timely first aid to Plaintiff-decedent, following the application of ECWs, O.C./chemical spray, and/or significant physical restraint techniques, thereby significantly and unreasonably reducing the likelihood of survival.

37. Upon information and belief, Trooper Menet did not provide adequate or timely first aid to Plaintiff-decedent, following the application of ECWs, O.C./chemical spray, and/or significant physical restraint techniques, thereby significantly and unreasonably reducing the likelihood of survival.

38. Upon information and belief, Officer Woods, Officer Hosking, Officer Clancy, and/or Trooper Menet did not permit responding EMS personnel to provide any necessary, material or timely first aid to Plaintiff-decedent, following the application of ECWs, O.C./chemical spray, and/or significant physical restraint techniques, thereby significantly and unreasonably reducing the likelihood of survival.

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39. Upon being loaded into an ambulance, it was discovered by EMS personnel that Plaintiff-decedent was asystole, and attempts to resuscitate Plaintiff-decedent failed.

40. Plaintiff-decedent's cause of death was ruled by the investigating forensic pathologist to be "cardiac dysrhythmia".

41. The conduct of Defendants Mt. Joy Borough, Susquehanna Regional Police Department, Officer Woods, Officer Hosking, Officer Clancy, and Trooper Menet, as set forth above and herein, violated Plaintiff-decedent's constitutional rights as guaranteed by the United States

Constitution, and as remediable pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §1983.

42. As stated previously, at all times relevant hereto, Officer Woods, Officer Hosking, Officer Clancy, and Trooper Menet acted either in their individual capacity or under the color and guise of state and local laws.

43. The conduct of Defendants Mt. Joy Borough, Susquehanna Regional Police Department, Officer Woods, Officer Hosking, Officer Clancy, and Trooper Menet, as set forth above and herein, acting under the color and guise of state and local law, was recklessly and deliberately indifferent to the safety, bodily integrity, well-being, and life of Plaintiff-decedent, and was committed in conscious disregard of the substantial and/or unjustifiable risk of causing harm to Plaintiff-decedent, and was so egregious as to shock the conscience.

44. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff-decedent was in custody, or was in the process of being placed into custody, thereby creating a special relationship between Defendants Mt. Joy Borough, Susquehanna Regional Police Department, Officer Woods, Officer Hosking, Officer Clancy, and Trooper Menet and Plaintiff-decedent. As such, these Defendants were entrusted with and responsible for Plaintiff-decedent's protection, safety, well being and life while he was within (or was in the process of being placed in) their custody, and these Defendants were, likewise, required to, provide reasonable, appropriate and timely medical care and treatment to Plaintiff-decedent.

45. As a direct and proximate result of the excessive use of force, and unreasonably dangerous conduct, as described above and herein, Plaintiff-decedent was caused to suffer grievous physical injuries, significant conscious pain and suffering, and an agonizing death.

46. The proximate conduct of Defendants Mt. Joy Borough, Susquehanna Regional

Police Department, Officer Woods, Officer Hosking, Officer Clancy, and Trooper Menet as described above and herein, was undertaken in bad faith and with excessive and unreasonable force, malice, bad motive, evil intent and deliberate and/or reckless indifference to and callous disregard for Plaintiff-decedent's constitutional rights to be free from physical assault causing grievous injuries, harm and death pursuant to the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution, as well as Plaintiff-decedent's right to appropriate and timely medical care as a result of being in (or in the process of being placed in) custody.

47. Upon information and belief, all ECWs utilized on Plaintiff-decedent were designed, manufactured, tested, marketed, distributed, and sold by Defendant Taser.

**COUNT I**  
**PLAINTIFFS v. OFFICER WOODS,**  
**OFFICER HOSKING, OFFICER CLANCY AND TROOPER MENET**  
**USE OF UNREASONABLE, MALICIOUS AND/OR EXCESSIVE FORCE**

48. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all of the above paragraphs as if set forth fully herein.

49. Upon information and belief, on November 6, 2010, Officer Woods, Officer Hosking, Officer Clancy, and Trooper Menet, despite being aware that Plaintiff-decedent was already short of breath and suffered from mental and emotional disabilities, utilized unreasonable, malicious, and/or excessive and unreasonably dangerous force on Plaintiff-decedent; specifically, the dischargement of multiple ECWs on Plaintiff-decedent, the utilization of one or more ECWs in "Drive Stun Mode" on Plaintiff-decedent, the dischargement of O.C./chemical spray directly into Plaintiff-decedent's face, and the utilization of significant and unreasonably dangerous restraint techniques upon Plaintiff-decedent, including pressing on Plaintiff-decedent's prone body, kicking Plaintiff-decedent, punching Plaintiff-decedent, and tying/binding Plaintiff-decedent with rope.

50. Plaintiff-decedent had a fundamental and well-established right to be secure in his person and a right not be subjected to excessive and unreasonable force pursuant to the Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution.

51. The force utilized by Officer Woods, Officer Hosking, Officer Clancy, and Trooper Menet was unreasonable, malicious, excessive, unnecessary, dangerous, willful and wanton, and unconstitutional.

52. The unreasonable, malicious, excessive, and dangerous force used by Officer Woods, Officer Hosking, Officer Clancy, and Trooper Menet was grossly disproportionate to any need for use of force, was in violation of applicable force continuum policy or, in the case of the Mt. Joy Borough "Use of Force Policy" was in connection with an unconstitutional, excessive, and unreasonably dangerous force continuum policy, and/or was inspired by malice rather than careless or unwise zeal.

53. The unreasonable, malicious, excessive, and dangerous force used by Officer Woods, Officer Hosking, Officer Clancy, and Trooper Menet served no legitimate law enforcement objective.

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54. The unreasonable, malicious, excessive and dangerous force used by Officer Woods, Officer Hosking, Officer Clancy, and Trooper Menet amounted to an abuse of official power and authority.

55. The unreasonable, malicious, excessive and dangerous force used by Officer Woods, Officer Hosking, Officer Clancy, and Trooper Menet was so egregious as to shock the conscience.

56. The unreasonable, malicious, excessive and dangerous force used by Officer Woods, Officer Hosking, Officer Clancy, and Trooper Menet evidenced a deliberate indifference to the life,

safety, well-being of Plaintiff-decedent.

57. The unreasonable, malicious, excessive and dangerous forced used by Officer Woods, Officer Hosking, Officer Clancy, and Trooper Menet came as a result of their unreasonable seizure of Plaintiff-decedent.

58. Officer Woods, Officer Hosking, Officer Clancy, and Trooper Menet's use of unreasonable, malicious, excessive and dangerous force on Plaintiff-decedent proximately caused his death in that it or they directly and in natural and continuous sequence produced, contributed substantially or enhanced Plaintiff-decedent's injuries and death.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment against Defendants, jointly and severally, for all recoverable and applicable compensatory damages at law including, if applicable, Wrongful Death and Survival Damages, and for all recoverable and applicable punitive damages at law, and for costs in excess of \$75,000.00 and such other relief as this Court deems just and for a trial by jury on all issues so triable as a matter of right.

**COUNT II**  
**PLAINTIFFS v. OFFICER WOODS,**  
**OFFICER HOSKING, OFFICER CLANCY, AND TROOPER MENET**  
**FAILURE TO PROVIDE TIMELY AND REASONABLE MEDICAL CARE**  
**TO INDIVIDUALS THAT HAVE BEEN SEIZED, ARE IN THE PROCESS**  
**OF BEING PLACED IN CUSTODY, AND/OR ARE IN CUSTODY**

59. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all of the above paragraphs as if set forth fully herein.

60. When Plaintiff-decedent was seized by Officer Woods, Officer Hosking, Officer Clancy, and Trooper Menet, particularly after Plaintiff-decedent was placed in handcuffs, a special relationship was created that, in turn, entitled Plaintiff-decedent to be reasonably provided with timely medical care, including access to reasonable emergency medical care and treatment for

legitimate medical needs by Officer Woods, Officer Hosking, Officer Clancy, and Trooper Menet.

61. Following the imposition of unreasonable, malicious, excessive and unreasonably dangerous force by Officer Woods, Officer Hosking, Officer Clancy, and Trooper Menet upon Plaintiff-decedent, it was, or should have been readily apparent and obvious to Officer Woods, Officer Hosking, Officer Clancy, and Trooper Menet that Plaintiff-decedent required immediate and urgent medical attention for the injuries he had sustained as a result of being energized by multiple ECWs, "drive stunned", subjected to an electrical current for an unreasonably dangerous duration and strength, O.C./chemical sprayed, and subjected to significant and unreasonably dangerous physical restraint methods, including having his prone body pressed upon, and being tied and bound with rope.

62. Despite Plaintiff-decedent's obvious injuries and significant need for urgent medical assistance and treatment, Officer Woods, Officer Hosking, Officer Clancy, and Trooper Menet intentionally, recklessly, and/or negligently denied and/or refused and/or failed to render appropriate and/or timely medical aid to Plaintiff-decedent and/or unreasonably prevented and/or delayed timely emergency medical assistance and treatment from EMS personnel.

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63. Officer Woods, Officer Hosking, Officer Clancy, and Trooper Menet possessed neither the right nor the authority to disregard the medical needs of individuals seized, in the process of being placed in custody, and/or in their custody, including Plaintiff-decedent, particularly when the medical needs were emergent and obvious in nature.

64. Officer Woods, Officer Hosking, Officer Clancy, and Trooper Menet, in willfully, wantonly, and recklessly ignoring the obvious, urgent and serious medical needs of Plaintiff-decedent while he was in their custody and the substantial risk of serious injury and death,

demonstrated deliberate indifference to Plaintiff-decedent.

65. Officer Woods, Officer Hosking, Officer Clancy, and Trooper Menet's intentional, reckless, and/or negligent denial and/or refusal and/or failure to render appropriate and/or timely medical aid to Plaintiff-decedent and/or unreasonable prevention and/or delay of timely emergency medical assistance from EMS personnel, proximately caused Plaintiff-decedent's death in that it or they directly and in natural and continuous sequence produced, contributed substantially or enhanced Plaintiff-decedent's injuries and death.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment against Defendants, jointly and severally, for all recoverable and applicable compensatory damages at law including, if applicable, Wrongful Death and Survival Damages, and for all recoverable and applicable punitive damages at law, and for costs in excess of \$75,000.00 and such other relief as this Court deems just and for a trial by jury on all issues so triable as a matter of right.

**COUNT III**  
**PLAINTIFFS v. OFFICER WOODS,**  
**OFFICER HOSKING, OFFICER CLANCY, AND TROOPER MENET**  
**STATE CREATED DANGER**

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66. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all of the above paragraphs as if set forth fully herein.

67. Despite Officer Woods, Officer Hosking, Officer Clancy, and Trooper Menet's actual and/or constructive knowledge that Plaintiff-decedent was suffering from pre-existing respiratory problems, circulatory problems, and mental/emotional health problems, and despite their knowledge that death or serious injury could occur to Plaintiff-decedent as a result of being energized by multiple ECWs, "drive stunned", subjected to an electrical current for an unreasonably dangerous duration and strength, O.C./chemical sprayed, and subjected to significant and unreasonably



dangerous physical restraint methods, including having his prone body pressed upon, and being tied and bound with rope, Officer Woods, Officer Hosking, Officer Clancy, and Trooper Menet knowingly and intentionally subjected Plaintiff-decedent to the aforementioned acts.

68. It was reasonably foreseeable to Officer Woods, Officer Hosking, Officer Clancy, and Trooper Menet that Plaintiff-decedent would be seriously injured or killed by the combination of being energized by multiple ECWs, "drive stunned", subjected to an electrical current for an unreasonably dangerous duration and strength, O.C./chemical sprayed, and subjected to significant and unreasonably dangerous physical restraint methods, including having his prone body pressed upon, and being tied and bound with rope.

69. Officer Woods, Officer Hosking, Officer Clancy, and Trooper Menet affirmatively abused and/or misused their official authority which created an opportunity for danger to Plaintiff-decedent that did not otherwise exist, which came as a result of Officer Woods, Officer Hosking, Officer Clancy, and Trooper Menet knowingly and/or intentionally energizing Plaintiff-decedent with multiple ECWs, "drive stunning" Plaintiff-decedent, subjecting Plaintiff-decedent to an electrical current for an unreasonably dangerous duration and strength, O.C./chemical spraying Plaintiff-decedent, and subjecting Plaintiff-decedent to significant and unreasonably dangerous physical restraint methods, including having his prone body pressed upon, and being tied and bound with rope, even though Officer Woods, Officer Hosking, Officer Clancy, and Trooper Menet knew or should have known that Plaintiff-decedent would sustain serious injury or die from these actions.

70. Officer Woods, Officer Hosking, Officer Clancy, and Trooper Menet's state-created dangers proximately caused Plaintiff-decedent's death in that it or they directly and in natural and continuous sequence produced, contributed substantially or enhanced Plaintiff-decedent's injuries

and death.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment against Defendants, jointly and severally, for all recoverable and applicable compensatory damages at law including, if applicable, Wrongful Death and Survival Damages, and for all recoverable and applicable punitive damages at law, and for costs in excess of \$75,000.00 and such other relief as this Court deems just and for a trial by jury on all issues so triable as a matter of right.

**COUNT IV**  
**PLAINTIFFS vs. MT. JOY BOROUGH**  
**AND SUSQUEHANNA REGIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**FAILURE TO TRAIN AND SUPERVISE PERSONNEL AT THE INSTITUTIONAL**  
**AND POLICY LEVEL**

71. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all of the above paragraphs as if set forth fully herein.

72. Plaintiff-decedent had fundamental and well-established rights to be free from unreasonable, malicious, excessive and dangerous force, and to not be denied access to medical care and treatment for legitimate medical needs once he was seized, in the process of being placed in custody, or in custody.

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73. The infliction of unreasonable, malicious, excessive and dangerous force upon Plaintiff-decedent, and the subsequent failure to provide Plaintiff-decedent with adequate and timely medical care, violated Plaintiff-decedent's substantive rights guaranteed by the United State Constitution.

74. The violations of Plaintiff-decedent's substantive constitutional rights, and his resulting catastrophic injuries and death, were caused by Defendants Mt. Joy Borough and Susquehanna Regional Police Department's failure, at an institutional and policy level, to properly

supervise, educate, instruct, train and/or control their personnel in general, including but not limited to the extraordinarily dangerous “Use of Force Policy” utilized by Defendant Mt. Joy Borough (see Exhibit “A”) as well as in the following specific respects:

- a. **Failing to adequately supervise, instruct, train, and educate their officers in regard to appropriate force continuums, and ensure that appropriate force continuums were properly implemented as a matter of policy and, thereafter enforced and followed, so as to expose members of the public, including Plaintiff-decedent, to the least possible level of force, including no force whatsoever;**
- b. **Failing to place ECW deployment in the appropriate “less lethal” step (Step VII) in the applicable “Use of Force Policy” (see Exhibit “A”);**
- c. **Intentionally, recklessly, and/or negligently designating ECW deployment at unreasonably low steps (Steps III and IV) in the applicable “Use of Force Policy” (see Exhibit “A”);**
- d. **Intentionally, recklessly, and/or negligently failing to provide any limitations as to the number and duration of ECW deployments that could be utilized on a suspect in the applicable “Use of Force Policy” (see Exhibit “A”);**
- e. **Intentionally, recklessly, and/or negligently failing to provide any specific force continuum/use of force policy considerations insofar as interacting with suspects known or believed to be suffering from mental and emotional health issues in the applicable “Use of Force Policy”, aside from a cursory notation, with no description, under “Suspect Factors” (see Exhibit “A”, p. 6);**
- f. **Failing at the institutional and policy level to adequately supervise, instruct, train, and educate their officers in regard to interactions with individuals suffering from mental and emotional health issues, including Plaintiff-decedent, so that proper communication can occur, and potentially violent confrontations can be avoided, including, but not limited to, recognizing the need for a Crisis Intervention Team and requesting assistance therefrom;**
- g. **Failing at the institutional and policy level to adequately supervise, instruct, train, and educate their officers in the proper use of ECW deployment;**

- h. Failing at the institutional and policy level to adequately supervise, instruct, train, and educate their officers in the proper use of ECW deployment in “Drive Stun Mode”;**
  - i. Failing at the institutional and policy level to adequately supervise, instruct, train, and educate their officers regarding the increased risk of serious injury or death that accompanies a prolonged electrical shock administered by the ECW, including but not limited to aggregate duration when multiple ECWs are deployed;**
  - j. Failing at the institutional and policy level to adequately supervise, instruct, train, and educate their officers in the proper use of O.C./chemical spray, including when an ECW has additionally been deployed;**
  - k. Failing at the institutional and policy level to adequately supervise, instruct, train, and educate their officers in the proper use of significant physical restraint methods (including but not limited to pressing on the prone body of a suspect and using rope to tie and bind) including when an ECW and/or O.C./chemical spray has additionally been deployed;**
  - l. Failing at the institutional and policy level to adequately supervise, instruct, train, and educate their officers to recognize the signs of pre-existing respiratory distress and the resulting health ramifications associated with using ECWs, O.C./chemical spray, and significant physical restraint methods (including but not limited to pressing on the prone body of a suspect and using rope to tie and bind) on such persons;**
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- m. Failing at the institutional and policy level to adequately supervise, instruct, train, and educate their officers to recognize the signs of pre-existing circulatory distress and the resulting health ramifications associated with using ECWs, O.C./chemical spray, and significant physical restraint methods (including but not limited to pressing on the prone body of a suspect and using rope to tie and bind) on such persons;**
  - n. Failing at the institutional and policy level to adequately supervise, instruct, train, and educate their officers to recognize the signs of pre-existing mental and/or emotional health disabilities, and the resulting health ramifications associated with using ECWs, O.C./chemical spray, and significant physical restraint methods (including but not limited to pressing on the prone body of a suspect and using rope to tie and bind) on such persons;**

- o. Failing at the institutional and policy level to adequately instruct, train, educate, and warn their officers that ECWs, particularly when repeatedly deployed for a prolonged period are capable of producing lethal injuries (See Exhibit "A");**
- p. Failing at the institutional and policy level to adequately instruct, train, educate, and warn their officers that ECWs, particularly when repeatedly deployed for a prolonged period and combined with the use of O.C./chemical spray, are capable of producing lethal injuries (See Exhibit "A");**
- q. Failing at the institutional and policy level to adequately instruct, train, educate, and warn their officers that ECWs, particularly when repeatedly deployed for a prolonged period, combined with the use of O.C./chemical spray as well as significant physical restraint (including pressing on the prone body of a suspect and using rope to tie and bind) are capable of producing lethal injuries (See Exhibit "A");**
- r. Failing at the institutional and policy level to provide appropriate medical training for their officers, including medical training that would allow their officers to recognize and/or treat the life threatening conditions incurred by Plaintiff-decedent as a result of ECW deployment, "drive stunning", exposure to an electrical current for an unreasonably dangerous duration and strength, being O.C./chemical sprayed, and being subjected to significant physical restraint methods (including being pressed upon when prone and being tied up with rope);**
- s. Failing at the institutional and policy level to adequately supervise, instruct, train, and educate their officers to call for EMS personnel and/or provide EMS personnel with timely access to persons suffering from life-threatening conditions, including Plaintiff-decedent; and**
- t. Failure to create, maintain, disseminate, promulgate, update, revise, and enforce reasonable written and unwritten policies prohibiting unreasonable, malicious, and excessive use of force against persons by their officers.**

75. The above-referenced failures of Defendants Mt. Joy Borough and Susquehanna Regional Police Department proximately caused Plaintiff-decedent's death in that it or they directly and in natural and continuous sequence produced, contributed substantially or enhanced Plaintiff-

decedent's injuries and death.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment against Defendants, jointly and severally, for all recoverable and applicable compensatory damages at law including, if applicable, Wrongful Death and Survival Damages, and for costs in excess of \$75,000.00 and such other relief as this Court deems just and for a trial by jury on all issues so triable as a matter of right.

**COUNT V**  
**PLAINTIFFS v. DEFENDANT TASER**  
**STRICT PRODUCTS LIABILITY**

76. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all of the above paragraphs as if set forth fully herein.

77. Defendant Taser is in the business of manufacturing, designing, testing, assembling, marketing and selling ECWs, including the taser ECWs that were used on Plaintiff-decedent.

78. The subject taser ECWs were defective and unreasonably dangerous when they were designed, manufactured, tested, assembled, marketed, distributed, and sold by Defendant Taser for reasons including but not limited to the following, all of which are applicable when the tasers are being deployed and when the tasers are being utilized in "Drive Stun Mode":

- a. **The subject taser ECWs were defective and unreasonably dangerous because they were designed, manufactured, tested, assembled, marketed, distributed and sold in a manner which would kill or seriously injure the intended target, including Plaintiff-decedent;**
- b. **The subject taser ECWs were defective and unreasonably dangerous because they were designed, manufactured, tested, assembled, marketed, distributed and sold in a manner that would subject the intended target, including Plaintiff-decedent, to an increased and unreasonable risk of death or serious bodily injury;**
- c. **The subject taser ECWs were defective and unreasonably dangerous**

because they were designed, manufactured, tested, assembled, marketed, distributed and sold in a manner that permitted an unreasonably strong level of electrical shock to be delivered to an intended target, including Plaintiff-decedent;

- d. The subject taser ECWs were defective and unreasonably dangerous because they were designed, manufactured, tested, assembled, marketed, distributed and sold in a manner that permitted an unreasonable duration of electrical shock to be delivered to an intended target, including Plaintiff-decedent;
- e. The subject taser ECWs were defective and unreasonably dangerous because they were designed, manufactured, tested, assembled, marketed, distributed and sold in a manner that did not adequately convey, instruct, or warn users, including law enforcement personnel, of the serious health risks associated with multiple taser deployment;
- f. The subject taser ECWs were defective and unreasonably dangerous because they were designed, manufactured, tested, assembled, marketed, distributed and sold in a manner that did not adequately convey, instruct, or warn users, including law enforcement personnel, of the serious health risks associated with a prolonged exposure and/or a significant aggregate exposure to an electrical current;
- g. The subject taser ECWs were defective and unreasonably dangerous because they were designed, manufactured, tested, assembled, marketed, distributed and sold in a manner that failed to provide adequate and reasonable training instructions and warnings to users, including law enforcement personnel, regarding the proper and safe use of the tasers; and
- h. The subject taser ECWs were defective and unreasonably dangerous because they failed to meet all applicable and reasonable safety standards including but not limited to Defendant Taser's internal standards and other reasonable industry standards.

79. On or about November 6, 2010, the subject tasers ECWs and all of their respective component parts, were substantially unchanged from their original respective conditions, when initially sold and distributed by Defendant Taser.

80. For the reasons set forth above, the subject tasers were unreasonably dangerous to members of the public generally, and to Plaintiff-decedent specifically.



81. The defect(s) described above directly and proximately caused Plaintiff-decedent's injuries and death, in that it or they directly and in natural and continuous sequence produced, contributed substantially or enhanced Plaintiff-decedent's injuries and eventual death.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment against Defendant Taser, jointly and severally, for all recoverable and applicable compensatory damages at law including, if applicable, Wrongful Death and Survival Damages, and for all recoverable and applicable punitive damages at law, and for costs in excess of \$75,000.00 and such other relief as this Court deems just and for a trial by jury on all issues so triable as a matter of right.

**COUNT VI**  
**PLAINTIFFS v. DEFENDANT TASER**  
**NEGLIGENCE**

82. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all of the above paragraphs as if set forth fully herein.

83. Defendant Taser knew or in the exercise of due care should have known that the subject taser ECWs would be used without inspection in an unreasonably dangerous condition and would create a foreseeable and unreasonable zone of risk of harm to members of the public generally, and to Plaintiff-decedent specifically.

84. Defendant Taser was under a duty to properly and adequately design, manufacture, assemble, test, inspect, label, provide adequate warnings for, package, distribute, instruct/train law enforcement personnel about, and/or sell the subject taser ECWs in a reasonably safe condition so as not to present a danger to members of the general public, including but not limited to Plaintiff-decedent, who foreseeably would come into contact with the subject taser ECWs.



85. Defendant Taser breached their duty by negligently designing, manufacturing, assembling, testing, inspecting, labeling, packaging, failing to warn, marketing, distributing, instructing/training law enforcement personnel about, and/or selling the subject taser ECWs when such products were not in reasonably safe condition for foreseeable use for reasons including, but not limited to the following:

- a. **Failing to properly design, manufacture, test, assemble, market, distribute, train/instruct law enforcement personnel, and/or sell the subject tasers in a manner that would not kill or seriously injure the intended target, including Plaintiff-decedent;**
- b. **Failing to properly design, manufacture, test, assemble, market, distribute, train/instruct law enforcement personnel, and/or sell the subject tasers in a manner that would not subject the intended target, including Plaintiff-decedent, to an increased and unreasonable risk of death or serious bodily injury;**
- c. **Failing to properly design, manufacture, test, assemble, market, distribute, train/instruct law enforcement personnel, and/or sell the subject tasers in a manner that would not permit an unreasonably strong level of electrical shock to be delivered to an intended target, including Plaintiff-decedent;**
- d. **Failing to properly design, manufacture, test, assemble, market, distribute, train/instruct law enforcement personnel, and/or sell the subject tasers in a manner that would not permit an unreasonable duration of electrical shock to be delivered to an intended target, including Plaintiff-decedent;**
- e. **Failing to properly design, manufacture, test, assemble, market, distribute, train/instruct law enforcement personnel, and/or sell the subject tasers in a manner that adequately conveyed, instructed, and/or warned users, including law enforcement personnel, of the serious health risks associated with multiple taser deployment;**
- f. **Failing to properly design, manufacture, test, assemble, market, distribute, train/instruct law enforcement personnel, and/or sell the subject tasers in a manner that adequately conveyed, instructed, and/or warned users, including law enforcement personnel, of the serious health risks associated with a prolonged exposure and/or a significant aggregate exposure to an electrical current;**

- g. **Failing to properly design, manufacture, test, assemble, market, distribute, train/instruct law enforcement personnel, and/or sell the subject tasers in a manner that provided adequate and reasonable training instructions and warnings to users, including law enforcement personnel, regarding the proper and safe use of the tasers; and**
- h. **Failing to properly design, manufacture, test, assemble, market, distribute, train/instruct law enforcement personnel, and/or sell the subject tasers in a manner that met all applicable and reasonable safety standards including but not limited to Defendant Taser's internal standards and other reasonable industry standards.**

86. The negligence described above directly and proximately caused Plaintiff-decedent's catastrophic injuries and death, in that it or they directly and in natural and continuous sequence produced, contributed substantially or enhanced Plaintiff-decedent's injuries and caused his death.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment against Defendant Taser, jointly and severally, for all recoverable and applicable compensatory damages at law including, if applicable, Wrongful Death and Survival Damages, and for all recoverable and applicable punitive damages at law, and for costs in excess of \$75,000.00 and such other relief as this Court deems just and for a trial by jury on all issues so triable as a matter of right.

Respectfully submitted,

**EISENBERG, ROTHWEILER,  
WINKLER, EISENBERG & JECK, P.C.**

BY: 

**Stewart J. Eisenberg, Esquire  
Daniel Jeck, Esquire  
Daniel J. Sherry Jr., Esquire  
Attorneys for Plaintiffs**

DATED: October 10, 2012

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## **EXHIBIT “A”**

Mount Joy Borough Police Department  
21 East Main Street  
Mount Joy, PA 17552

**Use of Force Policy**

Effective Date: October 16, 2007

Review Date: October 16, 2008

Purpose:

Police officers, on a daily basis, are frequently presented with situations in which force is required. Reasonable force will range between a low level use of force consisting mainly of the presence of the officer and verbal commands all the way up to and possibly including the use of deadly force. The purpose of this department policy is to provide the officer with guidelines, proscriptions, and limitations on the use of force generally and the use of deadly force in particular.

Policy:

It is the policy of the Mount Joy Borough Police Department that its officers will use reasonable force in carrying out their duties and responsibilities as police officers.

Federal Standards:

The federal standards are based primarily on three United States Supreme Court decisions which have interpreted and applied the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution to the use of force by police officers. The Fourth Amendment provides:

*The right of the people to be secure in their persons, house, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the person or things to be seized.*

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The three (3) critical cases are: *Tennessee v. Garner*, 471 U.S. 1 (1985), *Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386 (1989) and *Brower v. County of Inyo*, 489 U.S. 592 (1989). These cases and what they stand for are part of every officers' Act 120 training and are periodically reviewed in Act 180 Use of Force Update training, as well as elsewhere. In some form they tell us that when a police officer intentionally uses force and actually gains control of a suspect that a seizure has occurred. Deadly force used to seize a non-dangerous, fleeing felony suspect who poses no risk of harm to anyone is prohibited. Deadly force is permitted under *Garner*.

Where the officer has probable cause to believe that the suspect poses a threat of serious physical harm, either to the officer or to others, it is not constitutionally unreasonable to prevent escape by using deadly force. Thus, if the suspect threatens the officer with a weapon to there is probable cause to believe that he has committed a crime involving the infliction or threatened infliction of serious physical harm, deadly force may be used if necessary to prevent escape, and if, there feasible, some warning has been given. *Id.* 11

The reasonableness of a police officer's use of force will be judged, applying *Graham*, as follows:

Because the test of reasonableness under the Fourth Amendment is not capable of precise definition or mechanical application, its proper application requires careful attention to the severity of the crime at issue, whether the suspect poses an immediate threat to the safety of the officers or others, and whether he is actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight . . .

The "reasonableness" of a particular use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, rather than with the 20/20 vision of hindsight . . .

The calculus of reasonableness must embody allowance for the fact that police officers are often forced to make split-second judgments—in circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving—about the amount of force that is necessary in a particular situation.

In general, a reasonable police officer is allowed to use his education, training and experience as he goes about in making the decisions which are part and parcel of his duties as a police officer.

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State Standards:

## Pennsylvania Constitution, Article I, § 8

*The people shall be secure in their persons, houses, papers and possessions from unreasonable searches and seizures, and no warrant to search any place or to seize any person or things shall issue without describing them as nearly as may be, nor without probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation subscribed to by the affiant.*

The controlling state standard is found in Section 508 of the Pennsylvania Crimes Code. An officer who follows Section 508 is justified in the force used. An officer who does not follow Section 508, thereby using excessive force, is exposed to the filing of criminal charges. Section 508 of the Crimes Code provides as follows:

18 Pa.C.S. § 508 (2003)

## § 508. Use of force in law enforcement.

## (a) PEACE OFFICER'S USE OF FORCE IN MAKING ARREST.—

(1) A peace officer, or any person whom he has summoned or directed to assist him, need not retreat or desist from efforts to make a lawful arrest because of resistance or threatened resistance to the arrest. He is justified in the use of any force which he believes to be necessary to affect the arrest and of any force which he believes to be necessary to defend himself or another from bodily harm while making the arrest. However, he is justified in using deadly force only when he believes that such force is necessary to prevent death or serious bodily injury to himself or such other person, or when he believes both that:

(i) such force is necessary to prevent the arrest from being defeated by resistance or escape; and

(ii) the person to be arrested has committed or attempted a forcible felony or is attempting to escape and possesses a deadly weapon, or otherwise indicates that he will endanger human life or inflict serious bodily injury unless arrested without delay.

(2) A peace officer making an arrest pursuant to an invalid warrant is justified in the use of any force which he would be justified in

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using if the warrant were valid, unless he knows that the warrant is invalid.

### Interactions with Police:

There are three (3) types of interaction with police:

- Mere Encounter:
  - No suspicion required
  - Individual free to leave
  - No force allowed beyond officer presence
- Investigative Detention:
  - Requires "reasonable suspicion"
  - Less lethal force and deadly force are not permitted
- Arrest or Custodial Detention:
  - Requires "probable cause"
- Department Authorized and Supplied Equipment:
  - Hand gun
  - OC Spray
  - Taser
  - ASP- Collapsible Baton
  - PR-24
  - Automobile
  - Handcuffs (2 sets)
  - Flashlight
  - Patrol Rifle
  - Less than lethal Bean-bag rounds for the Shot Gun

### The Force Progression:

The generally accepted use of force model is usually as is here presented as a series of progressive force options from lower level of intrusion to ultimately deadly force. Often, this model is illustrated as is here with some type of diagram. The fact is that these force options and any illustrative diagram have certain recognized shortcomings. Each encounter is unique. An officer may be required to use force beginning at any level, depending on the facts of the encounter, and it is recognized that the officer may go from a less to a more intrusive, or from a more intrusive to a less intrusive, option quickly as the events dictate. It is always the suspect's behavior that

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determines the choice or choices that are made. This force continuum presupposes the officer's motor vehicle is stopped and the officer is most likely out of the vehicle. Vehicle operations are discussed separately in a separate policy.

**Step I - Officer Presence:**

The officer assumes control of a situation or suspect through his announced and/or uniformed appearance.

**Step II - Verbal Command:**

Presence has failed. The officer now begins a verbal persuasion/dialog and, if needed, command/warning mode to take control of the incident.

**Step III - Open Hand:**

Where practical, the officer places hands on the suspect and advises the suspect that he or she is under arrest. All resistance beyond this point is unlawful and must be countered by the officer. This step may lead to a wrestling match. It is also permissible at this step to use either OC Spray or a taser. An officer is permitted to use either OC Spray or a taser if trained and if the officer's training is current.

**Step IV - Pain Compliance:**

This is where officers, where practical, employ increasing levels of pain, such as pressure point controls, Oleo resin capicum spray, or tasers, may also be used to obtain suspect compliance.

**Step V - Mechanical Compliance:**

The usual methods of mechanical compliance include wristlocks, arm bar, or other "come along" techniques. These are counter joint pressures and leverage may be applied utilizing handcuffs, PR-24, flashlight or the police ASP- collapsable baton.

**Step VI - Impact:**

It is only when mechanical control methods are ineffective or inappropriate that the force applied escalates to the use of an impact weapon. When practical, blows should initially be directed to soft tissue

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areas, such as the back of the legs or buttocks prior to a strike at a joint or bone. This is the intermediate step between hand-applied force and the ultimate force of firearms.

**Step VII - Less Lethal Force:**

This step is where weapons, such as bean bags fired from shot gun shells may be used. Our Department does presently provide less lethal weapons and train in their use. Individual officers who are part of the County SERT Team who receive training in the use provided by the County may use their training and County provided weapons, if authorized, but only in connection with their duties as a SERT Team Member.

**Step VIII - Deadly Force:**

This ultimate step is appropriate to protect yourself or another from death or serious bodily injury, or to apprehend a fleeing forcible felon when you have exhausted all other means of apprehension and the suspect presents an eminent risk to the community, if not immediately apprehended.

**The Totality of the Circumstances:**

The force is never applied in a vacuum and always takes into consideration the totality of the circumstances.

1. Suspect Factors:
  - Nature of the Crime
  - Age
  - Sex
  - Size
  - Skill Level
  - Drugs/Alcohol
  - Mental Status
  - Disabilities
2. Officer Factors:
  - Multiple Officers
  - Age
  - Sex
  - Size

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### Skill Level and Force Options

3. Special Circumstances:  
Daylight/Dusk/Night  
Lighting  
Close Proximity to Firearm  
Special Knowledge  
Injury or Exhaustion  
Ground  
Disability  
Imminent Danger  
Ability to Escalate or Disengage
4. Number of Suspects

### Subject Levels of Resistance:

In addition, the subject's level of resistance must help determine any police use of force.

#### 1. Passive Resistance:

The subject uses "dead weight" only to attempt to refuse compliance. They are verbally non-compliant and use body weight to prevent the officer from gaining control. An example of passive resistance would be as depicted outside abortion clinics and protests. The subject makes no attempt to physically harm the officer. Generally, up to use of pain compliance techniques are appropriate for this level of resistance.

#### 2. Active Resistance:

The subject performs some physical act, short of officer assault to prevent subject control by the officer. Running, grabbing an object, intertwining with another subject are all examples of an act of resistance. Generally, up to use of mechanical subject control techniques would be considered appropriate levels of force to overcome this type of resistance.

#### 3. Assaultive Resistance:

The subject employs some sort of grab, push, pull, wrestling or leverage technique designed to unbalance the officer, a strike, a punch, a kick, or any other method that employs a means by which the officer would be assaulted, short of a deadly force threat.

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Generally, up to use of impact/electrical subject control techniques would be considered appropriate levels of force to overcome this type of resistance.

4. Lethal Resistance:

The subject uses some type of resistance, either armed or unarmed that puts the officer in fear of death or serious bodily injury. A deadly or lethal force response is appropriate for this type of resistance.

5. Number of Suspects

Shooting at or From Moving Vehicles:

Officers shall not discharge a firearm at or from a moving vehicle, with the following exceptions and after considering:

- (a) The difficulty of hitting a moving target.
- (b) Ricocheting bullets strike unintended targets.
- (c) Population density.
- (d) The inability to stop a vehicle's momentum even when the target actor or suspect is hit, and the danger or injury which might result from causing a vehicle to go out of control.
- (e) As a last resort measure when the suspect, by using the vehicle or other means poses an imminent danger of death or serious physical injury to the officer and other person.
- (f) As a last resort to prevent the escape of a fleeing felon when the use of deadly force is otherwise justified.

Positional Asphyxia:

To avoid chest compression or a claim that chest compression may have precipitated positional asphyxia, officers shall avoid maintaining control over (or transporting) a prisoner(s) by keeping them in a prone or "hog-tied" position. Once control over a prisoner(s) has been obtained, officers shall place the prisoner(s) in a seated position, or if necessary, on their side.

Notification and Reporting Requirements for Use of Force Incidents:

(a) Use of Force Report:

1. Officers of the Mount Joy Borough Police Department shall complete a "Departmental Use of Force Report" (Addendum A) whenever they:

(a) Discharge a firearm for other than training or recreational purposes:

(i) Exceptions:

(a) Firearm discharges for the destruction of an animal shall be documented by a Departmental Incident Report.

(b) Take an action that results in, or is alleged to have resulted in, injury to or the death of another person.

(c) Apply Step 3 force relating to the discharge of oleoresin capsicum or a taser, or force in excess of that defined by Step 4 within this policy.

2. A "Use of Force" Report generally shall be completed prior to the officer(s) concluding their shift during which the use of force occurred. The completed report(s) shall be provided to the Shift Supervisor (OIC) to be forwarded through the chain of command to the Chief of Police. If no injury was apparent, but later alleged, a "use of force" report shall be completed at that time.

(a) If the officer involved is injured or unable to make the report, the officer's supervisor should submit a written report prior to the end of the shift in which the incident occurred detailing the circumstances under which the officer is unable to submit the report.

Medical Attention Required Following Use of Force as Appropriate:

General rule:

Officers shall arrange for an emergency medical service (EMS) to examine, treat and/or transport to a medical facility a subject if:

(1) The force utilized by police personnel caused more than superficial injuries.

Medical treatment of oleoresin capsicum contaminated persons is needed:

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(1) As soon as possible, persons contaminated by a release of oleoresin capsicum shall be exposed to fresh air and have their contaminated areas flushed with cold water.

(2) Contact lenses of contaminated persons shall be removed and thoroughly washed prior to reuse.

Evaluation by medical personnel (EMS) shall be initiated without delay in any of the following circumstances:

- (1) Any person who has been exposed to oleo resin capsicum who complains of itching, hives, difficulty swallowing, facial swelling (particularly around the eyes, lips or nose) or who states they have a known allergy to any of a variety of pepper.
- (2) Any person who admits to being under the influence of cocaine, amphetamines, barbiturates, PCP, opium, heroin, or high levels of alcohol.
- (3) Any person who admits a history of heart problems, lung problems, diabetes, high blood pressure, or other potentially serious medical condition.

Medical treatment of a person on whom a taser was used:

- (1) Once the subject is safely secured and in custody, the arresting officer shall notify EMS that the subject has received an electrical charge from the taser and relate the appropriate time the action occurred. If the probes penetrate the skin, the puncture site shall be brought to the attention of medical personnel.
- (2) Only medical personnel may move, or direct to be removed, any taser probes that are embedded in soft tissue areas, such as the neck, face and groin. The removal from other areas will be at the discretion of the on-scene officer, supervisor or medical personnel.
- (3) The on-scene supervisor, if available, or other officer shall allow medical personnel to determine if the subject should be transported to the hospital.

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- (4) If the probes are no longer affixed to the subject, and medical personnel determined the subject does not need to be transported to the emergency room/hospital, the subject may be transported to jail.
- (5) If the subject is transported to the emergency room/hospital, the transporting officer shall obtain a medical release from medical personnel before the subject is transported to jail.
- (6) Officers must be aware that one aspect of possible injury to a subject receiving an electrical charge from a taser is that of falling from a standing position.
- (7) The spent air cartridge and probe shall be collected and preserved as evidence. Caution should be exercised in handling probes that have penetrated a subject's skin. Such probes shall be packaged and handled with the same care as a hypodermic needle, and shall be packaged in a suitable container to prevent accident infection. The probe shall be labeled as a biohazard when submitted as evidence.
- (8) The deploying officer is responsible for documenting the deployment of the taser by completing the Use of Force Report in detail.
- (9) The officer deploying the taser shall insure photographs are taken of the subject receiving an electrical charge from the taser (contact or probes), with special attention to any area injured and where the charge was received. The officer shall include detailed documentation in the incident report as to how the injury occurred.

Vehicle Operation/Pursuit:

75 Pa. C.S.A. § 6342 was enacted for the purpose of directing police departments to maintain pursuit policies and to provide the outline of the content that must be included in the policy. The Mount Joy Borough Police Department has a separate vehicle operations policy, which you as an officer are responsible for reading, understanding and following.

Oleoresin Capsicum Spray (O.C. Spray):

Definitions:

1. Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) - A derivative of cayenne pepper, OC is classified as an inflammatory. OC exposure generally has the following characteristics:

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- (i) works immediately
- (ii) symptomatic effects may last up to 45 minutes
- (iii) There are no documented long lasting harmful effects to the person whols sprayed with OC.

2. Non-Flammable Propellant - a propellant or delivery system that will not enhance open flames or causes a fire from a spark.

Departmentally approved OC sprays:

Generally -

Officers may only carry and use OC Spray issued by the Chief of Police or his designee. OC spray from any other source, regardless of its composition or manufacturer, may not be used or carried.

- A. Officers shall not carry OC products containing unreasonably flammable substances. (e.g. alcohol)
- B. Officers shall not carry OC products containing known carcinogens.
- C. Officers shall not carry OC products containing substances banned by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Training:

Officers must be trained and must successfully complete a departmentally approved OC training program prior to being issued OC.

Guidelines for Usage:

- A. Oleoresin Capsicum Spray (O.C. Spray) should be used at distances of less than ten (10) feet. The effectiveness increases with close proximity. Short bursts are more effective than prolonged spray. Also O.C. Spray should be sprayed directly into the subject's face, primarily the eyes, nose and mouth. This tool may also be used against attacking dogs, again spraying the area of the eyes, nose and mouth.
- B. The duration of the application of chemical agents shall be limited to the absolute minimum required to effectively control the subject. Normally, short one-half-second (1/2-second) bursts are sufficient; bursts of longer duration seldom increase effectiveness, but increase the possibility of injury.

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- C. O.C. Spray has been found to be effective against most drug abusers and persons under the influence of alcohol.
- D. Subjects upon whom a chemical agent is used must exhibit apparent signs of being alert and in possession of their normal reflexes; i.e., blinking, eye closure, breath holding, or turning away from the applied stream.
- E. The agent will not be employed in the immediate vicinity of infants, since their respiratory systems are extremely sensitive to all kinds of vapors.

#### Effects of OC usage:

The general effects of OC exposure include inflammation of the eyes and mucous membranes causing an involuntary closing of the eyes and uncontrollable coughing/hacking. The effects are immediate and render the person helpless through temporary blindness.

#### Straight/Side Handle Batons (ASP and PR-24):

Officers to defend themselves or others may utilize these intermediate defensive weapons. The primary purpose of these weapons is to provide officers with a means of fending off and/or subduing an unarmed assailant.

- A. Officers should not rely on these types of weapons to overcome an armed attack.
- B. Officers may have to rely on these weapons to subdue a violently resisting subject; however, officers must realize that blows delivered to the head with the straight/side handle baton could prove fatal. Blows delivered to other vulnerable areas are often more effective.
- C. These weapons will not be used to strike handcuffed individuals, properly secured and in custody, nor as a threatening device to intimidate people.
- D. All officers will be trained and be able to demonstrate satisfactory skill, proficiency, and if needed proper qualification, prior to carrying or using the straight/side handle baton by a certified instructor. Subsequent to training and certification, the side handle baton can be carried instead of the conventional baton. If remedial training is needed by an officer, the certified instructor shall provide one-on-one training with the officer until the officer can show proficiency, and if needed proper qualification.

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- B. Batons shall be carried or stored in an easily accessible location should the officer need it quickly when exiting a patrol vehicle.

Handgun:

The Chief of Police, or his designee, shall maintain an official record on each authorized weapon owned by the Department and issued to each officer for official use. The Chief of Police, or his designee, shall also maintain an official record of all personal weapons authorized by the Department for official use, and the Chief of Police, or his designee, shall be responsible for updating these records.

1. Updating of the Firearm record shall be done annually, and during the firearm training session. Firearm Instructors shall document all firearm inspections and a listing of the firearm information shall be forwarded to the chief of police. This department will keep information on all firearms; at no time will the department expunge firearm information..
2. While on duty, officers will carry a weapon issued by the Department and capable of firing Department-issued ammunition. Unless otherwise authorized, that weapon shall be the issued weapon of the officer.
3. All officers will be required to undergo at least an annual firearm qualification with their issued service weapon, unless excused for just cause by the Police Chief.
4. Unauthorized persons shall secure all Department-issued or authorized firearms kept away from Department property so as to foil accidental discharge, theft, or use.
5. The standard issued firearm of the department will be the Beretta, model Px4 Storm, and .40 caliber semi-automatic pistol.
6. The department shall issue duty ammunition.
7. While off duty, officers are not authorized to carry weapons as outlined above under the following conditions:
  - A. To, from, or while attending preplanned social functions that will involve the consumption of any intoxicating substances. Officers who, without preplanning, find themselves in a situation where intoxicating substances are being served will refrain from use of such substances.

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- B. While engaged in a recreational activity or physical labor that could pose a threat of the weapon being exposed, dropped, accidentally discharged, or prove to be a threat to the officer or other persons or property.
8. It is recommended that prior to carrying an off-duty weapon, the officer should qualify with that weapon and provide to an authorized Mount Joy Borough Police Department Firearms Instructor the make of weapon, caliber of weapon, length of barrel, type of finish, and serial number of that weapon.
  9. Officers will qualify the first qualification of each year with their off-duty weapon(s). Firearm Instructors can disqualify any officer who fails to meet the standards set for each qualification course if the weapon is operationally unsound.
  10. The cost of ammunition to qualify with personally owned weapons shall be assumed by the individual officer.
  11. While carrying a firearm off-duty, officers will always have on their person the issued Department and/or State Identification and badge of authority. All officers shall take all reasonable care to see that their weapon remains totally concealed while in public, unless it is required for lawful use.
  12. The maximum number of off-duty weapons that an officer will be allowed to qualify with is two, unless prior approval has been received from the Chief of Police or his designee.
  13. Special on duty assignments - Off-duty or secondary weapons and ammunition, authorized by the department, may be utilized or assigned for special on-duty related details or assignments as given and authorized by Chief of Police.

Shotguns:

The department shall no longer use the shotgun for the use of 00-Buck Ronds and Hi Shock Slugs. The department shall use the shotguns for discharging less than lethal beanbag rounds.

1. All uniformed officers will have a shotgun in their vehicle prior to assuming active patrol status.

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2. Shotguns will be secured in approved gun racks in the vehicle when on patrol.
3. Each officer will be required to qualify with the shotgun at least annually.
4. Department Firearms Instructors will develop a shotgun maintenance schedule for cleaning and detailed inspection of each shotgun. Range masters shall ensure the schedule is adhered to.
5. When loading the shotgun, ensure the weapon is loaded properly to capacity; however, do not under any circumstance pump live rounds into the chamber when securing the weapon into the vehicle. (Cruiser Safe)
6. When loading and unloading shotguns, be sure the weapon is pointed in a safe direction.

#### Police Patrol Rifle:

The Police Patrol Rifle (PPR) may be used to assist officers who respond, or become involved, in an unplanned or spontaneous incident involving a suspect(s) who is wearing protective body armor, or believed to be armed with or has immediate access to firearms, or is believed to be armed and situated in a distant or fortified position or location, or where the officer has a reasonable expectation that there is a clear potential for an armed suspect encounter. The use of the PPR is intended to minimize or prevent the risk of death or serious bodily injury to officers as well as members of the community.

1. Though deployment of the PPR is usually restricted to spontaneous events, the Officer in Charge (OIC) may authorize its deployment on a pre-planned basis for high-risk events or operations.
2. In every case, deployment of the PPR shall be in accordance with the general firearm policy, safety rules and procedures and the use of force guidelines and regulations set forth within this policy.
3. Police officers of the Mount Joy Borough Police Department will be authorized to use the rifle(s) owned by the Mount Joy Borough Police Department during performance of their official duties. The usage of the rifle(s) by members of the Mount Joy Borough Police Department will be restricted to trained personnel only.
4. To qualify as trained personnel in the use of the patrol rifle owned by the Mount Joy Borough Police Department, police officers will have to meet the

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minimum standards for qualification as recommended by the National Rifle Association (NRA) and the Municipal Officers Education and Training Commission (MPOETC).

5. Officers trained with the patrol rifle will be required to re-qualify and train with the patrol rifle annually (minimum standard).
6. Officers will be required to shoot a minimum proficiency of 90% to qualify with the patrol rifle utilizing the course of fire used by the Mount Joy Borough Police Department.
7. All patrol rifles owned by Mount Joy Borough Police Department will be re-sighted for accuracy by a qualified Mount Joy Borough Police Department Firearms Instructor annually.

EXCEPTION: Any Mount Joy Borough police officer assigned to the Lancaster County Special Emergency Response Team (SBRT) may utilize his assigned Patrol Rifle for the same conditions outlined in this policy during his course of duties with the Mount Joy Borough Police Department. Training and qualification standards through the Lancaster County SBRT team will be considered adequate to fulfill the requirements set forth for the Mount Joy Borough Police Department.

FIREARMS, AMMUNITION AND EQUIPMENT. The following additional procedures are to be observed.

1. Handling of Firearms - All officers are expected to maintain their proficiency with regard to the safe handling and use of firearms. The playful or wanton pointing of a firearm at anyone or the careless or negligent use of a firearm is prohibited.
2. Carrying of Firearms - While on duty, officers are to carry only those weapons as issued by, or approved by the Mount Joy Borough Police Department.
  - a. Care and Maintenance.
    - (1) Firearms shall be maintained in clean, rust free, and fully serviceable condition at all times.
    - (2) The Department Range Masters will authorize all service work on Department-issued weapons.

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- (3) Department-issued weapons will not be disassembled except for "field stripping" of the weapon in compliance with guidelines set forth by Department Firearms Instructors.
- b. Alterations and Accessories. Alterations and accessories to issued weapons require prior approval of the Chief of Police.
- c. Ammunition.
  - (1) Only ammunition issued by, or approved by the Department, will be carried on duty.
  - (2) A minimum of three fully loaded magazines for uniformed officers and at least one fully loaded magazine for plainclothes officers is required.
  - (3) Extra ammunition is to be carried by all officers and shall also be available in all Borough vehicles utilized by sworn members of the Department.
  - (4) All types of ammunition used for training, on-duty purposes when utilizing a weapon qualified by the department, is restricted to that authorized by the Chief of Police.
- d. Holsters, Ammunition Holders and Ammunition Loaders.
  - (1) While on duty, only those holsters, ammunition holders, and ammunition issued by, or approved by the Department shall be used.
  - (2) While off duty, weapons shall be carried in holsters of good quality, equipped with a safety strap, locking mechanism or other means of firearm security or retention.
- e. Firearms Qualification - To meet the responsibilities to the public and adhere to any and all laws and regulations as set forth, a firm policy has been established regarding firearms training and qualifications.
  - (1) All officers will be required to undergo several regularly scheduled firearms safety training and firing sessions per year.

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(2) Officers who have not displayed minimal competency with their weapon will not be authorized by the Mount Joy Borough Police Department to carry firearms.

(3) Qualification Requirements.

- (a) In order to qualify to carry a police sidearm, each officer is to complete a qualification course annually by obtaining a passing score on the applicable state qualification firearms course or courses. During each qualification session, the complete course shall be fired a minimum of one time.
- (b) All officers will be required to fire the police shotgun at least annually to familiarize themselves with the weapon. Such firings will be under the supervision of a Department Firearms Instructor.
- (c) All officers may fire any and all Department-approved off-duty weapons annually under the supervision of a Department Firearms Instructor.
- (d) Any officer who fails to achieve a minimum passing score on a required qualification course shall attend additional firearms training at no expense to the Borough within 30 days of the qualification attempt.

- 1) Upon completion of such additional instruction, the officer shall re-shoot for qualification under the supervision of a Department Firearms Instructor until the course has been passed.
- 2) Consideration will be given to those officers who cannot fire a qualifying score due to a medical/handicap. If such condition/handicap is permanent, a determination will be made as to whether the officer can continue in an active duty capacity. If such condition/handicap is temporary a determination will be made as to whether the officer should be removed from active duty or reassigned to duties not requiring carrying of a firearm until recovery and successful completion of the required qualification course. Not being able to qualify with an issued weapon after additional instruction is reason for dismissal.

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- (e) Officers are to attend all scheduled training and qualification sessions as assigned.
- (f) Department Firearms Instructors will forward qualification scores and training results to the Chief of Police upon completion of each qualification period.
- (4) Department officers as issued through the National Rifle Association (NRA) may wear police Marksmanship Badges.
  - (a) Classification of award will be determined by either averaging all scores fired during the previous three (3) years of firing of using the highest score obtained during an Annual Department Shooting Match, whichever is higher.
  - (b) The Department Firearms Instructor shall maintain the above records and furnish the information to officers upon request.

3. Discharge Reporting Procedures.

- a. When an officer has discharged a firearm, whether on or off duty, in any and all circumstances other than while actively engaged in legal sporting events of competitive or practice type target firing, or routine training, the officer shall adhere to the following procedures:
  - (1) Make a verbal report to the Chief of Police or the Officer-in-Charge.
  - (2) Complete and furnish to the Chief of Police or the Officer-in-Charge a "Use of Force Report" containing a detailed report of the incident as soon as possible following the incident.
  - (3) In the event the officer who has discharged firearm is fatally injured or is physically or mentally incapacitated and is incapable of submitting the "Use of Force Report"; the officer's immediate supervisor is responsible for completing the report.
- b. A complete and thorough investigation into the incident will be made as soon as possible following the incident.
- c. At no time during performance of duty shall an officer fire "warning shots".

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- d. A rescue shot identifies a location and signals for appropriate assistance. Officers in danger of death or serious physical injury and incapacitated to the extent they cannot signal in any other manner, may fire a rescue shot. Officers must exercise reasonable care in firing rescue shots, e.g., by shooting away from any other individuals, homes, vehicles, etc.
- 4. Destruction of Animals.
  - a. An officer may use a firearm to dispatch a dangerous animal or terminate the suffering of a critically injured or sick animal when other means of disposal are impractical.
  - b. In all cases when the shooting of an animal is necessary, the officer will ensure the protection of nearby persons and property.
  - c. Officers are required to complete an Incident Report when a firearm is used to dispatch an animal.
- 5. Post-Shooting Incident Procedures & Other Deadly Force Incident Procedures
  - a. Handling of Officers at Scene of Shooting Incident or other deadly force incident.
    - (1) A supervisor shall be dispatched to the scene of the incident, and shall assume primary responsibility in caring for involved personnel.
    - (2) The supervisor shall make appropriate arrangements for all necessary medical treatment.
    - (3) During any period where the involved officer is required to remain on the scene, but has no immediate duties to fulfill, the officer should be taken to a quiet area away from the scene of the incident. A peer counselor or other supportive friend or officer should remain with the officers, but should be advised not to discuss details of the incident.
    - (4) The supervisor should arrange for the officers directly involved in the incident to leave the scene as soon as possible, and be taken to a quiet, secure setting.

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- (5) Where possible, the supervisor shall briefly meet with the involved officers.
  - (a) No caffeine or other stimulants or depressants should be given to the officers unless administered by medical personnel.
  - (b) Only minimal, preliminary questions should be asked about the incident. The officers should be advised that a more detailed debriefing would be conducted at a later time.
  - (c) Any standard investigations that will occur concerning the incident should be discussed with the officers.
  - (d) The officers should be advised that they may seek legal counsel.
  - (e) The officers should be advised not to discuss the incident with anyone except a personal or agency attorney, union representative, or departmental investigator, until the conclusion of the preliminary investigation.
- (6) The supervisor shall determine whether the circumstances of the incident require that the officer's duty weapon be taken for laboratory analysis. Where the duty weapon is taken, the supervisor shall:
  - (a) Take custody of the officer's weapon in a discrete manner; and
  - (b) Replace it with another weapon, or advise the officer that it will be returned or replaced at a later time, as appropriate.
- (7) Involved officers should notify their families about the incident as soon as possible. Where an officer is unable to do so, an agency official shall personally notify his family, and arrange for their transportation to the hospital.
- (8) At all times, when at the scene of the incident, the supervisor should handle the officer and all involved personnel in a manner that acknowledges the stress caused by the incident.

b. Post-Incident Procedures

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- (1) Involved personnel shall be removed from line duties pending evaluation but shall remain available for any necessary administrative investigations.
- (2) All officers directly involved in the shooting incident or any incident involving death or serious bodily injury shall be required to contact an agency designated specialist for counseling and evaluation as soon as practical after the incident. Involved support personnel should also be encouraged to contact such specialists after a shooting incident. After the counseling sessions, the specialist shall advise the agency:
  - (a) Whether it would be in the officers' best interest to be placed on administrative leave and for how long;
  - (b) Where the officers were relieved of their duty weapons after an incident, at what point they should be returned;
  - (c) What will be the best-continued course of counseling?
- (3) The agency strongly encourages the families of the involved officers to take advantage of available counseling services.
- (4) Any agency investigation of the incident shall be conducted as soon and as quickly as practical.
- (5) The agency should brief other agency members concerning the incident so that rumors are kept to a minimum. Agency members are encouraged to show the involved officers their concern.
- (6) All personnel involved in a shooting incident should be advised that they are not permitted to speak with the media about the incident. Officers shall refer inquiries from the media to a designated agency spokesperson, unless otherwise authorized to release a statement pertaining to the incident.
- (7) In order to protect against crank or abusive calls, officers should be advised to have phone calls answered by another person for several days if their names are released to the public.
- (8) Officers directly involved in the shooting incident shall be required to re-qualify as soon as practical.

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c. Daily Stress Recognition

- (1) As post-traumatic stress disorders may not arise immediately, or the officers may attempt to hide the problem, each supervisor is responsible for monitoring the behavior of unit members for symptoms of the disorder.
- (2) A supervisor may order an officer to seek assistance or counseling from a mental health specialist upon a reasonable belief that stress may be disrupting the officer's job performance.

d. Training

- (1) The agency shall provide employees with training pertaining to post-traumatic stress disorders and the uniform procedures contained in this policy on a regular basis.
- (2) Supervisors are responsible for making available to their unit member's information about the agency's peer counseling group and mental health services.
- (3) A Use of Force continuum is a teaching tool used by police agencies to train officers what would be considered by experienced officers as a reasonable amount of force. It is not a concrete directive that dictates a level of force that an officer must use during certain circumstances. Mount Joy Borough police officers are expected to use a reasonable amount of force. Whether the force a police officer uses is reasonable depends on all the facts and circumstances of the event.

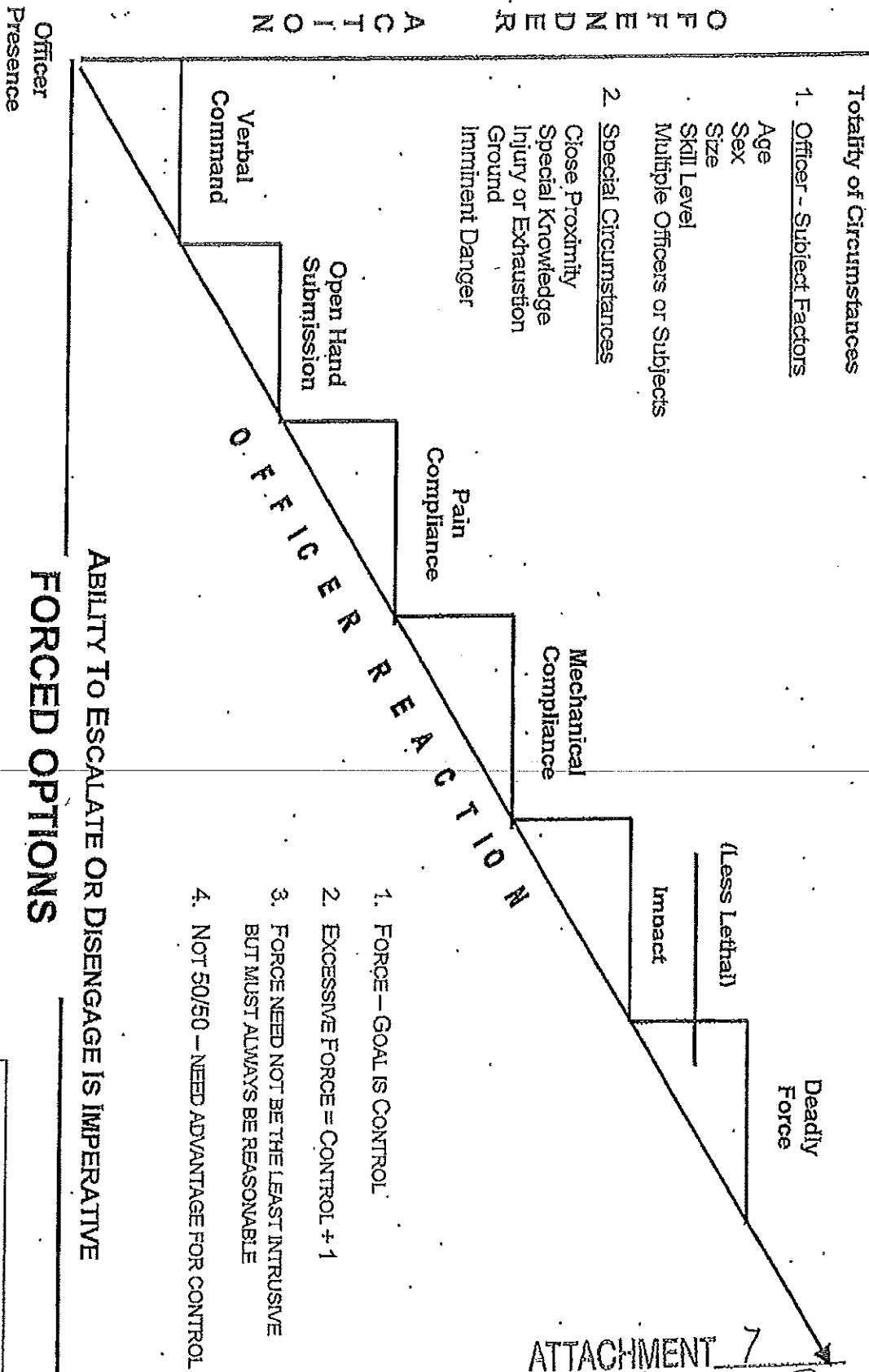
Handcuffs:

Uniformed officer shall carry at least two pair of handcuffs issued to and approve by the department while on duty. Each situation is different and officers are responsible for their personal safety and ensuring against escape of the detainee. At no time will an officer be handcuffed to a prisoner.

John R. O'Connell Jr.  
Chief of Police  
Mount Joy Borough Police Department

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# CONFRONTATIONAL FORCE CONTINUUM



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